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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

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1945 Lumber Production in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region

By
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In 1945, the last year of World War II, lumber production in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region was 1,094,424,000 feet board measure. This is a decline of 14 percent from 1944 and the lowest cut since 1939.

Causes for the low production were many. Manpower and equipment shortages which were the principal factors limiting production in the previous year became progressively worse. Labor-management disputes in the fall of the year resulted in the closing of some of the larger mills. A contributing factor may have been the general let down after V-J Day.

Detailed statistics on lumber production for 1945 are presented in Tables 1 and 2 attached. The data are based on the annual census of lumber production conducted by the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in cooperation with the Bureau of Census. They were compiled from reports submitted by 661 mills in Montana, Idaho and northeastern Washington.

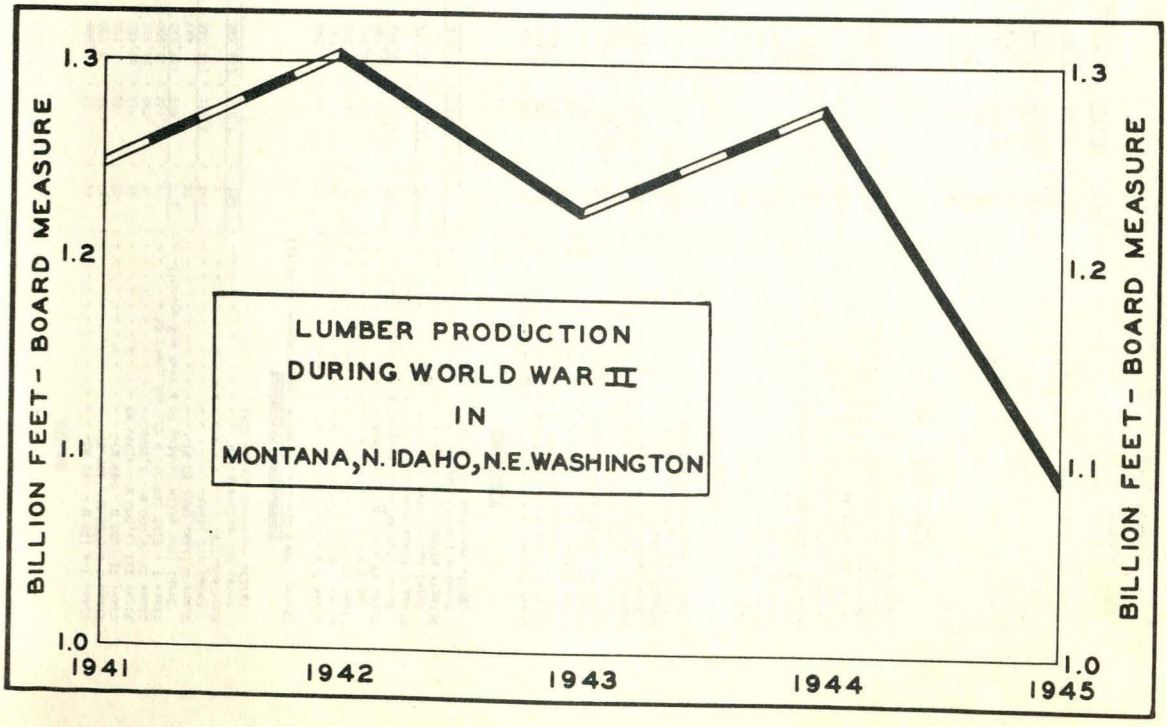

TABLE I

PRODUCTION OF LUMBER, LATH, AND SHINGLES - 1945

MONTANA, NORTHEASTERN WASHINGTON, AND IDAHO

Classification	Active mills	Western white pine	Ponderosa pine	Western larch	Douglas-fir	Grand fir	Western redcedar	Western hemlock	Engelmann spruce	Lodgepole pine	Cottonwood	Other	Total cut	Sawed cross ties 1/	Lath	Shingles	Lumber on hand 12-31-44	Lumber on hand 12-31-45
	Number	M Ft. b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft. b.m.	M Ft. b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft. b.m.	M Ft.b.m.	M Pieces	Squares	M Ft.b.m.	M Ft. b.m.
MONTANA																		
Class I-a (50 M - 199 M)	64	17	1,598	1,081	2,805	5			426	545	5		6,482	518			324	73
Class I-b (200 M - 499 M)	38	23	4,100	3,330	2,871				245	379	100		11,048	1,250			233	309
Class II (500 M - 999 M)	22	21	3,368	5,612	4,366				530	418			14,315	2,465			63	35
Class III (1,000 M - 4,999 M)	41	741	40,452	29,887	18,912	420			2,643	3			93,058	32,113			4,059	4,998
Class IV (5,000 M - 9,999M)	8	790	21,931	20,252	6,975				2,320				52,268	18,204			7,613	8,095
Class V - VIII (10,000 M ft. and over) 2/	4	2,223	72,400	49,718	30,821				7,605				162,767	93	2,680		42,613	38,879
Total (for mills cutting 50 M feet and upward)	177	3,815	143,849	109,880	66,750	425			13,769	1,345	105		339,938	54,643	2,680		54,905	52,389
Class O (less than 50 M)	76		497	212	782				55	244	21		1,811	51		50	68	107
Total all clases	253	3,815	144,346	110,092	67,532	425			13,824	1,589	126		341,749	54,694	2,680	50	54,973	52,496
Shingle mills	2															974		
Total all active mills	255	3,815	144,346	110,092	67,532	425			13,824	1,589	126		341,749	54,694	2,680	1,024	54,973	52,496
(Mills reported idle - 129)																		
NORTHEASTERN WASHINGTON (Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties)																		
Class I-a	17	60	295	644	544	47							1,590	336			24	24
Class I-b	9		647	1,157	1,042		20		5				2,871				125	65
Class II	11	40	1,235	1,905	2,641	57		55	62	1			5,996	860			155	235
Class III	10	235	15,340	5,352	7,083	496	1,200	200			18		29,924	77			495	1,820
Class IV - VII 3/ (Combined)	5	13,972	51,765	11,245	18,771	2,534	750	775	1,010		159		100,981		1,535		42,260	38,963
Total (for mills cutting 50 M and upward)	52	14,307	69,282	20,303	30,081	3,134	1,970	1,030	1,077	1	177		141,362	1,273	1,535		43,059	41,107
Class O (less than 50 M)	8	20	33	2	50	10							115	5		40	5	
Total all classes	60	14,327	69,315	20,305	30,131	3,144	1,970	1,030	1,077	1	177		141,477	1,278	1,535	40	43,064	41,107
Shingle mills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						
Total all active mills	60	14,327	69,315	20,305	30,131	3,144	1,970	1,030	1,077	1	177	-	141,477	1,278	1,535	40	43,064	41,107
(Mills reported idle - 35)																		
NORTH IDAHO																		
Class I-a	34	131	1,215	572	1,480	255	74		48	34	10		3,819	326			65	42
Class I-b	20	78	1,642	962	1,782	751	80		43	114		3	5,455	568			833	585
Class II	15	247	2,868	1,791	2,742	994	122	190					8,954				12	175
Class III	27	11,207	17,233	17,739	14,743	3,704	1,622	60	3,948				70,256	2,738			7,547	5,487
Class IV	10	15,358	25,629	12,117	11,756	6,832	610		1,420				73,722				10,426	10,782
Class VI - VIII 4/ (Combined)	8	193,295	76,659	13,690	78,110	72,064	12,975	855	875	24			448,547	1,058	17,192		127,403	118,460
Total	114	220,316	125,246	46,871	110,613	84,600	15,483	1,105	6,334	172	10	3	610,753	4,690	17,192		146,286	135,531
Class O	17	5	176	111	119	21	2		7	4			445	9			54	61
Total all classes	131	220,321	125,422	46,982	110,732	84,621	15,485	1,105	6,341	176	10	3	611,198	4,699	17,192		146,340	135,592
Shingle mills	9															24,522		
Total all active mills	140	220,321	125,422	46,982	110,732	84,621	15,485	1,105	6,341	176	10	3	611,198	4,699	17,192	24,522	146,340	135,592
(Mills reported idle - 42)																		
SOUTH IDAHO																		
Class I-a	38		769		1,874	255			169	555	4		3,626	3			95	135
Class I-b	18		2,604		2,089	85			545	289			5,612				31	79
Class II	13		4,836		3,547	210				425	20		9,038				145	93
Class III	12		24,954		4,292	18			764	750			30,778				932	513
Class IV - VIII 5/ (Combined)	5		104,368	2,165	12,805	184			60				119,582	12,553			47,963	37,149
Total	86		137,531	2,165	24,607	752			1,538	2,019	24		168,636	12,556			49,166	37,969
Class O	29		15		253	20			71	159	101		619					15
Total all classes	115		137,546	2,165	24,860	772			1,609	2,178	125		169,255	12,556			49,166	37,984
Shingle mills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						
Total all active mills	115		137,546	2,165	24,860	772			1,609	2,178	125		169,255	12,556			49,166	37,984
(Mills reported idle - 69)																		
ENTIRE STATE OF IDAHO																		
Class I-a	72	131	1,984	572	3,354	510	74		217	589	14		7,445	329			160	177
Class I-b	38	78	4,246	962	3,871	836	80		588	403		3	11,067	568			864	664
Class II	28	247	7,704	1,791	6,289	1,204	122	190		425	20		17,992				157	268
Class III	39	11,207	42,187	17,739	19,035	3,722	1,622	60	4,712	750			101,034	2,738			8,479	6,000
Class IV	11	15,358	31,029	12,117	12,356	6,832	610		1,420				79,722				10,826	10,802
Class V - VIII (Combined)	12	193,295	175,627	15,855	90,315	72,248	12,975	855	935	24			562,129	13,611	17,192		174,966	155,589
Total	200	220,316	262,777	49,036	135,220	85,352	15,483	1,105	7,872	2,191	34	3	779,389	17,246	17,192		195,452	173,500
Class O	46	5	191	111	372	41	2		78	163	101		1,064	9			54	76
Total all classes	246	220,321	262,968	49,147	135,592	85,393	15,485	1,105	7,950	2,354	135	3	780,453	17,255	17,192		195,506	173,576
Shingle mills	9															24,522		
Total all active mills	255	220,321	262,968	49,147	135,592	85,393	15,485	1,105	7,950	2,354	135	3	780,453	17,255	17,192	24,522	195,506	173,576
(Mills reported idle - 111)																		
SUMMARY FOR REGION ONE (Montana, Northeastern Washington and North Idaho)																		
GRAND TOTAL of all active mills	455	238,463	339,083	177,379	208,395	88,190	17,455	2,135	21,242	1,766	313	3	1,094,424	60,671	21,407	25,586	244,377	229,195
GRAND TOTAL of mills reported idle	206																	

1/ Represents quantity of sawed ties, nine feet or less in length, included under total quantity cut.
2/ Class V, VI and VIII combined to avoid disclosing cut of individual mills. There is one mill in Class V, one mill in Class VI, and two mills in Class VIII.
3/ Class IV, VI and VII combined to avoid disclosing cut of individual mills. There are two mills in Class IV, three mills in Class VI, and one mill in Class VII.
4/ Class VI, VII and VIII combined to avoid disclosing cut of individual mills. There are three mills in Class VI, three mills in Class VII, and two mills in Class VIII.
5/ Class [illegible] combined to avoid disclosing cut of individual mills. There [illegible] mills in Class V, two mills in Class VI and one mill in Class VIII.

TABLE II

LUMBER PRODUCTION - 1945

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Species	Montana			North Idaho 1/			Northeastern Washington 2/			Northern Rocky Mountain Region		
	1944	1945	Change 1945 from 1944	1944	1945	Change 1945 from 1944	1944	1945	Change 1945 from 1944	1944	1945	Change 1945 from 1944
	M Ft. b.m.	M Ft. b.m.	Percent	M Ft. b.m.	M Ft. b.m.	Percent	M Ft. b.m.	M Ft. b.m.	Percent	M Ft. b.m.	M Ft. b.m.	Percent
Western white pine	9,048	3,815	-58	254,171	220,321	-13	29,111	14,327	-51	292,330	238,463	-18
Ponderosa pine	180,042	144,346	-20	141,449	125,422	-11	64,885	69,315	+ 7	386,376	339,083	-12
Douglas-fir	89,720	67,532	-25	118,433	110,732	- 7	25,801	30,131	+17	233,954	208,395	-11
Western larch	140,985	110,092	-22	59,866	46,982	-22	28,109	20,305	-28	228,960	177,379	-23
Grand fir	5	425	-3/	76,108	84,621	+11	2,628	3,144	+20	78,741	88,190	+12
Engelmann spruce	26,365	13,824	-48	6,421	6,341	- 1	1,484	1,077	-27	34,270	21,242	-38
Western redcedar	38	-3/	-	11,876	15,485	+30	626	1,970	+215	12,540	17,455	+39
Western hemlock	-	-	-	2,953	1,105	-63	2,063	1,030	-50	5,016	2,135	-57
Lodgepole pine	2,217	1,589	-28	14	176	-3/	12	1	-92	2,243	1,766	-21
Cottonwood	78	126	+62	814	10	-98	-	177	-3/	892	313	-65
Birch	-	-	-	-	3	-3/	-	-	-	-	3	-
Total	448,498	341,749	-24	672,105	611,198	- 9	154,719	141,477	- 9	1,275,322	1,094,424	-14
Sawed ties (M Ft.b.m.) 4/	87,798	54,694	-38	14,065	4,699	-67	2,568	1,278	-50	104,431	60,671	-42
Lath (M pieces)	7,300	2,680	-63	19,620	17,192	-12	3,020	1,535	-49	29,940	21,407	-29
Shingles (squares)	425	1,024	+141	21,711	24,522	+13	100	40	-60	22,236	25,586	+15
Lumber on hand Dec. 31	54,814	52,496	- 4	146,330	135,592	- 7	43,064	41,107	- 5	244,208	229,195	- 6
Number of active sawmills reporting	256	253	- 1	122	131	+ 7	62	60	- 3	440	444	+ 1

1/ Includes that part of Idaho north of the Salmon River.
2/ Includes Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Ferry Counties.
3/ Comparative production statistics for these species not significant because of irregular occurrence in operating schedules.
4/ Represents quantity of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, included under total quantity lumber sawed.